



MERCHANT GRAIN BEETLE INFO SHEET

FAST FACTS

- Adult beetles have two sets of wings.
- Female beetles usually lay dozens or hundreds of eggs.
- Most beetles only live for a year.
- Beetles can't see very well, so they communicate using **pheromones**, sounds or vibrations.
- Some beetles aren't considered pests. "Ladybugs" are beetles and are considered to be good luck in many cultures. "Fireflies" and "Lightning bugs" are also beetles. They glow in the dark to communicate.

General Information

These beetles have extremely flat bodies. This body shape allows them to crawl into packaged foods to eat, live and reproduce. It only takes them about 3-4 weeks to grow from baby to adult and an adult Merchant Grain beetle can live up to 3 years.

Merchant Grain beetles can be found all over the world and can live in cooler climates. Once confused with a kind of beetle that does eat grain, the Merchant beetle was scientifically re-categorized, but the name stuck. These beetles get their name because they were commonly found on merchant ships, hiding in **organic** cargo.

Size	1/10" to 1/8"	Common Name	Merchant Grain Beetles
Shape	Narrow, Oval, Flat	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Brown	Phylum	Arthropoda
Legs	6	Class	Insecta
Wings	Varies	Order	Coleoptera
Antenna	Yes	Family	Anobiidae
		Genus Species	Anobiid

Diet

Merchant grain beetles don't really eat whole grain products. They are drawn to foods high in fat, such as cereals, cake mixes, macaroni, cookies and chocolate.

Habitat

Merchant grain beetles are found in pantries or in food processing areas or warehouses.

Impact

Merchant grain beetles can get into stored food and can **contaminate** food by laying eggs and leaving waste behind.

Prevention

- * Discard **infested** packages.
- * Clean up spilled grain and food.

To learn more about this and other beetles, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/beetles.html>